No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-430-5-1-7

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Submitted weeks in previous Readings to Pres

TO: Richard Moose

FROM: Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Item for President's Reading

The Green Revolution: Cornucopia or Pandora's Box? by Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. (Foreign Affairs, April 1969)

In this article, Clifton Wharton, Jr. (Vice President of the Agricultural Development Council and an adviser on Governor Rockefeller's mission to Latin America) observes that while the benefits of the new high yield varieties of wheat, corn, and rice are being hailed as an undeniable breakthrough in the food-population equation, we should recognize that it will not be easy to achieve the potential promised by the new food-growing technology.

Wharton discusses the problems he sees arising out of the spread of the new technology and the steps necessary to deal with them. He notes that successful harvests will require, in addition to the improved seeds, new investment in irrigation, sophisticated use of pesticides, fertilizers and modern equipment. These steps present massive problems of education and financing. Even if the new technology is rapidly diffused, a second generation of new economic, social and political problems will have to be overcome: e.g., probable accelerated displacement of the small farmer with consequent increase in migration to urban centers; the prospect of market glut and depressed prices; the loss of markets by traditional food exporters. Wharton concludes that now is the time for contingency planning so that we can respond flexibly and quickly as the "green revolution" proceeds.

Attachment:

Tab A - Article by Clifton R. Wharton

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